Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /106 W

-----100086 010626Z /20

R 291857Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0927

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 16091

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINR PDIP EG

SUBJECT: SHAZLI TRAVELS

REF: CAIRO 15385 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. FORMER EGYPTIAN COS AND AMBASSADOR TO LISBON SHAZLI MAY TRAVEL TO ADDRESSEE COUNTRIES. WHILE HIS DEFECTION FROM SADAT DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE HAD MUCH IMPACT HERE, WE INTERESTED IN TRACKING HIM FOR TIME BEING. END SUMMARY.

1. AKHBAR JUNE 29 REPORTS FORMER AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL AND FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF SAAD AL-DIN SHAZLI LEFT LISBON FOR MADRID JUNE 28 AND WAS SEEN OFF BY AMBASSADORS FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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IRAQ, LIBYA, AND SYRIA. SHAZLI REPORTEDLY SAID HE FEARED FOR HIS SAFETY AND WOULD NOT STAY THERE. AKHBAR STORY COMMENTS THAT SHAZLI, WHO "DENIED HIS COUNTRY AND LAND," GIVING HIMSELF FALSE IMPORTANCE BY CLAIMING FEAR OF PHYSICAL HARM.

2. AS REPORTED REFTEL, OUTSPOKEN SHAZLI WAS CHIEF OF

STAFF DURING OCTOBER 1973 WAR. SADAT, IN RECENT AUTO-BIOGRAPHY, BLAMED THE GENERAL FOR HIS FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE AND REACT QUICKLY ENOUGH TO ISRAELI BRIDGEHEAD WEST OF CANAL AND SHAZLI WAS FORCIBLY RETIRED AFTER OCTOBER WAR. HE WAS THEN APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO UK IN JANUARY 1974. WHILE THERE HE PUBLICLY CRITICIZED SADAT'S POLICY AND RECEIVED PRESIDENTIAL REPRIMAND. HE WAS MADE AMBASSADOR TO LISBON IN JUNE 1975 WHERE EARLIER THIS MONTH HE STRONGLY AND PUBLICLY DENOUNCED SADAT'S INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLICIES. GOE THEN SUSPENDED HIM AS AMBASSADOR AND ORDERED HIM TO RETURN HOME, WHICH SHAZLI REFUSED TO DO.

3. COMMENT. SHAZLI REPORTEDLY INDICATED DAMASCUS WOULD BE ONE OF HIS STOPS, AND HE MIGHT ALSO TRAVEL TO ALGIERS, BAGHDAD, AND TRIPOLI. AS BEST WE CAN DETERMINE, SHAZLI'S DEFECTION HAS HAD LITTLE IMPACT HERE. PRESS HAS PROBABLY BEEN WISE TO HIGHLIGHT HIS PROFESSED LINKS TO LIBYA AND IF HE GOES THERE OR TO OTHER "REJECTIONIST" CAPITALS HE WILL FURTHER UNDERMINE HIS STANDING WITH MOST EGYPTIANS. EILTS

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